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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/617,099	07/10/2003	Bob McGuire	15912/09031	1985

27530 7590 06/01/2005

NELSON MULLINS RILEY & SCARBOROUGH, LLP  
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EXAMINER
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THOMPSON, KENNETH L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3672

DATE MAILED: 06/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/617,099

Applicant(s)

MCGUIRE ET AL.

Examiner

Kenneth Thompson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 7-10 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,11-13,17,18,20-23 and 26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-6,14-16,19,24 and 25 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on 11 March 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11Mar2005
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

The indicated allowability of claim 12, 13, 17, 18, 20 and 21 is withdrawn.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 11-13, 17, 18, 20-23 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith, U.S. 5,605,194.

Regarding claims 1, 2, 22 and 23, Smith discloses in figure 1 an adapter pin (34) having a top nipple section with a top pin thread (35) for connection to a high pressure valve (col. 6, lines 30-43), and a bottom nipple section with a bottom pin thread (37) engaging a top end box thread (36) in a central passage of the double locking casing mandrel (43). Smith discloses a retainer flange (20) for providing a sealed (30) mounting surface to which the blowout preventer (22), is mounted (col. 5, lines 45-54) having an axial passageway that is box-threaded (at 23) for engaging a pin thread (at 23) on a top end (47) of the double locking casing mandrel (43); and stimulating the well by pumping high pressure well stimulation fluids through the well stimulation equipment into the casing of the well (col. 6, lines 15-43).

Regarding claim 11, Smith discloses an adapter pin (34) having a pin-threaded top end (35) and a pin-threaded bottom end (37) connected to the top box thread (36) of the double

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locking casing mandrel (43), a retainer flange (20) having threaded bores (26; col. 5, lines 47-51; bolts or other fasteners pass through the bores in the manner of a thread) spaced circumferentially about a box threaded axial passage (at 23) for securing an BOP (col. 5, lines 45-54), the box threaded axial passage engaging the pin thread (23) on the top wall (47) of the double locking casing mandrel and the box threaded axial passage (at 23) having a diameter equal to the diameter of the top outer wall (47).

Regarding claims 12 and 13, Smith discloses sealingly connecting by thread engaging (37,36) rotation an adapter pin (34) to the double-locking casing mandrel (43), the pin having a hollow cylindrical body with an internal diameter at least as large as that of a casing (14) supported by mandrel; threadedly connecting a retainer flange (20) to a pin thread (23) on an outer wall of a top end of the mandrel (43); securing a high pressure valve to the mandrel using a pin-threaded top end of the adapter pin (col. 6, lines 30-43) by rotation of the valve and securing a BOP (22) to the mandrel using box threaded bores (26) in a top surface of the retainer flange for receiving the flange bolts (col. 5, lines 47-51); and stimulating the well by pumping high pressure well stimulation fluids through the well stimulation equipment into the casing of the well (col. 6, lines 15-43).

Regarding claims 17, 18, 20 and 21, Smith discloses sealingly connecting the mandrel (43) and lockdown flange (20) to the adapter pin (34), threadedly connecting a lockdown nut (lower threaded section of 20 at 23) of the lockdown flange (20) supported by an annular shoulder (inner surface of 20 at 28) to below the top end of the lockdown flange (20) to a pin-thread (23) on the outer wall of the mandrel, mounting a BOP to the lockdown flange (col. 5,

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lines 45-54), mounting a high pressure valve connected to fracturing lines (col. 6, lines 30-43) and stimulating the well (col. 6, lines 15-43).

As to claim 26, Smith discloses mounting a high pressure valve (col. 6, lines 30-43) to the retainer flange (20; via 34,43) and connecting fracture lines to the valve.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 7-10 are allowed.

Claims 3-6, 14-16, 19, 24 and 25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art of record does not disclose or suggest all the claimed subject matter including the top nipple section having a sealing nipple located above the pin thread.

The prior art of record does not disclose or suggest all the claimed subject matter including a sealing nipple located between the top and bottom pin threads.

The prior art of record does not disclose or suggest all the claimed subject matter including a lockdown flange having a box-threaded bottom end engaging the top pin-threaded top end of the adapter pin, and a lockdown nut having a box thread for engaging an external thread on the top end of the double locking casing mandrel.

The prior art of record does not disclose or suggest all the claimed subject matter including mounting a blowout preventer protector to the blowout preventer, and stroking the blowout preventer protector through the blowout preventer.

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### ***Response to Arguments***

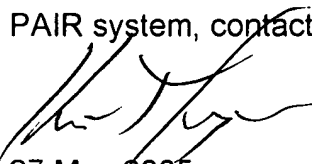
Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, 11-13, 17, 18, 20-23 and 26 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenneth Thompson whose telephone number is 571 272-7037. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David J Bagnell can be reached on 571-272-6999. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



27 May 2005

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